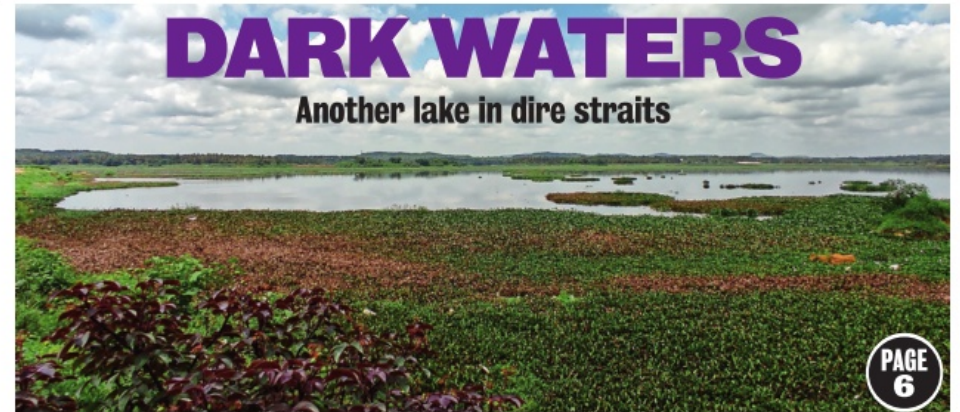


Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 19 | Humidity 67%

Partly Cloudy

Sensex 65,970 | Nifty 19,794 | Gold 61,370 | Silver 73,915 | Dollar 83.31 | Euro 91.23 | GBP 104.98



Provide ample pick-up/drop-off points on premises to check traffic congestion on main roads, malls told

MALL IS NOT LOST

‘Pick-up/drop-off points at a distance of 80 m’

‘Climate action window closing in on city’

‘BBMP’s Climate Action Cell for Bengaluru will facilitate efficient implementation of resilience plan’



Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Whenver a new mall emerges in the city, the fear of traffic jams in the surrounding areas looms large. Now, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has finally taken notice and is keen on addressing traffic congestion. The civic agency is urging malls to establish dedicated pick-up and drop points to mitigate congestion in front of their establishments.

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath said: “We have observed traffic congestion near malls, and measures need to be taken to alleviate this. When permitting the operation of malls, we must specify that they need to provide ample pick-up and drop-off areas on the premises to check traffic congestion on the main road. If space is unavailable, they should not allow the public to pick up and drop off; instead, they should make arrangements in their open areas. We would encourage malls to construct underpasses in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>



“When permitting operation, we must specify malls need to provide pick-up and drop-off areas

— Tushar Giri Nath, chief commissioner, BBMP

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The window of opportunity for securing a liveable future for Bengaluru is rapidly closing, the Bengaluru Climate Action and Resilience Plan (BCAP) prepared by the World Resources Institute (WRI) has pointed out.

The plan recommends that by 2050, Bengaluru must reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions by 56% compared to the 2019 baseline. It suggested GHG emissions in the city be reduced by 16% by 2030, 26% by 2040, and 56% by 2050. This will enhance the city’s resilience by speeding adjustments in the ecological, social or economic systems in response to risks posed by the climate emergency.

The plan was launched by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Monday - it makes Bengaluru one of the few cities in the world, and the third city in India to have a global standard climate action plan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Pets' glory



Don't miss the opportunity to get into the world of dogs, as Silicon City Kennel Club, Bengaluru, is presenting the All India Championship Dog Show in association with Bangalore Canine Club. Some of the international experts will be judging the show.

Where: Hockey ground, Veterinary College campus, Hebbal
When: December 2 and 3; 9 am to 5 pm

02 Green echo



Get ready for unique live music experiences at Echoes of Earth, which is a celebration of music, art, culture, and conservation efforts. The 6th edition of the festival highlights the interconnectedness of India's richest biodiversity hotspot, the Western Ghats. This year, the festival features artists such as Haribabu Natesan, the Aravani Art Project, and Siddharth Karawal.

Where: Embassy International Riding School
When: December 2 and 3

03 AI magic

Don't miss the chance to attend the OnePlus AI Music Festival, a multi-genre musical event for its ever-growing Indian community. The festival is a celebration of creativity, technology, and the vibrant spirit of this community. It enables enthusiasts to compose and blend genres using AI technologies. You can head to Paytm Insider to get your tickets.

Where: Manpho Convention Centre
When: December 17



What's your issue?

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah hosted a day-long Janata Darshan on Monday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Course correction: No takers, better drop the subject

End of the chapter for several engineering courses due to decline in student enrollment; officials say administrations spending huge sums for nothing

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The Higher Education Department has proposed the closure of a few engineering courses with only a handful of students. For instance, courses like Ceramic and Cement Technology and the Internet of Things have an average enrollment of four students each, while Design Engineering and Environmental Engineering have five students each. In contrast, Computer Science boasts a student strength of 14,656, and Electronics and Communication have 10,207 students.

Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar said, "Student enrollment in many engineering colleges is decreasing. In a few engineering courses, there are only a handful of students studying. We feel it is better to shut down such courses. We will soon write to the All India Council for Technical Education to initiate the closure of these courses."

An official added, "Though we are providing numerous options for engineering colleges to improve enrollment, some courses are experiencing a significant decline. In the 2023-24 CET admission year, out of the 93,000 seats offered, there was no option for entry for a whopping 10,000 seats. Among the 208 engineering colleges affiliated with Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), 60 had two-digit admissions. In some colleges, civil engineering had very



In a few courses, there are only a handful of students studying

“ Though we are providing numerous options for engineering colleges to improve enrollment, some courses are experiencing a significant decline

—an official

few admissions.”

College administrations believe that, as they are spending a huge sum to run these courses, it is better to shut them down. Indeed, in recent years, many engineering colleges have closed due to poor intake, they added.

Previously, Visvesvaraya Technological University addressed challenges faced by students in finding jobs in preferred industries by offering equivalent certificates for courses with 'fancy nomenclature.' For example, VTU issued a BE in Mechanical Engineering degree for those who studied industrial production, automobiles, or tool engineering. Similarly, students could receive certificates of BE in

Civil Engineering by studying either transportation, construction technology and management, or environmental engineering. Information science and engineering students could obtain an equivalence certificate in either BE in Computer Science Engineering or BE in Information Technology. Electronics and instrumentation students could receive a BE in Electronics and Communication, while aeronautical engineering students could opt for a BE in Aerospace Engineering.

A VTU official stated, "Earlier, we were giving equivalent certificates for learning, and now for employability, to help students apply for jobs. Despite offering

multiple courses, many faced issues when applying for jobs or higher studies, as employers or universities failed to recognise such courses. Hence, we introduced the concept of an equivalence certificate to aid those applying for government jobs, as certain courses were barred outright in job notifications."

For the equivalence certificate, students had to apply to the VTU office by paying an online fee of Rs 1,000. Before that, VTU had renamed a few courses, such as 'Instrumentation and Technology' as BE in Electronics and Instrumentation Technology. The logic was that the term 'Electronics Engineering' would catch the attention of companies. Electronics is a course that has sustained demand for a long time, and officials hoped that even students of Instrumentation Technology would benefit, added the official.

According to academicians, the five major streams identified worldwide are civil, mechanical, electrical, electronic, and computer science. An academician noted, "For example, courses like Medical Electronics or Telecommunications had a majority of portions that were taught in electronics. Out of 60 subjects in electronics, 50 are commonly studied by these students. So, why not allow students to study electronics with a specialisation in a particular course? Many students said that fancy names weren't recognised by companies in the US and Canada."

Pane pain to fair feathered friends

City's high-rises with their glass windows are proving to be too dangerous for birds; at least 500 collisions reported in 3 years

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Bengaluru is becoming a dangerous place for birds. Thanks to the city's rapid urbanisation giving way to high-rise buildings with glass elevations and window panes, the number of birds crashing into these structures is on the rise.

Data from just two rescue centres in the city - People for Animals (PFA) and Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre (ARRC) - shows that at least 500 birds collided with the city's skyscrapers over the last three years. While 91 such cases were reported in 2021, 155 birds collided in 2022. However, as many as 254 collision cases have already been reported this year.

"Over the last three years, we received 6,741 bird-related rescue cases and out of these, more than 150 birds were injured and many died due to collisions with glass windows and high-rise buildings. These numbers are on the rise and it should be a cause of concern."

Bird collisions with buildings contribute to bird fatalities and can hurt local bird populations, especially if the collisions involve species that are already facing conservation challenges. The cumulative effect of bird collisions can pose a threat to overall bird populations, impacting biodiversity and ecosystem health," said Dr (Colonel) Nawaz Shariff, chief veterinarian, People for Animals (PFA).

Green cover gone

Veterinarians and bird enthusiasts say while Bengaluru is fast losing its green cover, tall buildings with reflective glass sheets and humongous window panes have increased overnight, leading to such high cases of bird fatality this year.

Birds may not perceive clear glass as a barrier and may attempt to fly through it, leading to collisions.

Glass windows can also reflect the surrounding environment, creating the illusion of open space, leading to collision. Birds, especially those in flight, may not recognise the presence of glass panes due to a lack of visual cues that indicate a solid surface.

"We have received over 350 cases of birds getting injured due to collisions over the past three years and as many as 169 cases are from the year itself. During the day, birds collide with windows that reflect the sky or surrounding vegetation, as they do not perceive the glass as a barrier. At night, nocturnal migrants generally crash into lit windows. These birds have a complex navigation system which includes using stars at night! They



are drawn by artificial lights in urban areas along their migratory pathways and can fly into windows or be thrown off course," said Subiksha Venkatesh, rescue manager, Avian and Reptile Rehabilitation Centre ARRC.

Since birds often fly at high speeds, such collisions can be severe, leading to head injuries, concussions, or fatal injuries. Head injuries sustained from collisions can have long-term consequences for individual birds, affecting their ability to forage, navigate, and survive in their natural habitats.

"Most of the collision cases are fatal. When birds dash against a solid surface while flying at a high speed, it leads to cerebral hemorrhage. We recently got a pond heron from Attibele that collided with a glass window pane."

When we conducted an x-ray, we found that almost 60% of its brain was opaque from blood clots. We kept the bird in an incubator for days but could not revive it and it succumbed to its injuries,"

“During the day, birds collide with windows that reflect the sky or surrounding vegetation, as they do not perceive the glass as a barrier. At night, nocturnal migrants crash into lit windows. Birds have a complex navigation system

added Dr Shariff.

Blinding lights

Experts say lights in urban areas can disorient birds, especially during migration, leading to increased risks of collisions. Thus, regulation of artificial light at night and making bird-friendly buildings are important steps. Legislation that will update building codes with design and construction requirements will make the city safer for winged creatures.

"New York City has taken steps to address this issue by requiring city-owned and managed buildings to turn off their lights at night during migration, incorporating patterns or films on the glass that are visible to birds. Certainly, the principles and practices mentioned in the context of New York's bird-friendly legislation could be considered and potentially implemented in other cities, including Bangalore," added Dr Shariff.

Decals or films in the form of patterns, dots, or stripes that break up the reflective surface of the glass, external screens or netting a few inches away from the glass, external architectural features like awnings, louvers, sun shades, and shutters to reduce reflection, UV reflective coatings to the window panes, partially closed curtains or blinds, planting vegetation near windows as a natural barrier and artificial light management such as turning off all non-essential lights at night and installing downward-facing and low-level lighting are some other measures that can be adopted to address this critical concern, opine experts.

BM win win situation

Readers, it is time for us to have some fun. As the year winds up, we want to connect with you and understand you better. And, we have a lot of goodies to give away too.

So here goes,

Tell us in not more than 100 words, about the one thing about **Bangalore Mirror** that makes it the first habit that you pick up every morning. Please be as witty as you choose, as the top 10 answers stand to win a big prize of an evening out.

Winners can have a fun night at the **Echoes of Earth Festival**, that has a stellar line-up of musicians from around the world.

Scan this QR code to send us your entries. All the very best! ★



BangaloreMirror

HAL has big plans for Tejas

Indian public sector aerospace and defence manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics, which currently has the capacity to build eight Light Combat Aircraft per year, intends to take up to 24 in the course of the next three years.

"At present, we have our capacity at around six in numbers. Our LCA Tejas division are producing; there are two lines over there that are capable of producing 16 numbers. So this is what has been planned as per the contracted delivery schedule. But we wanted to increase this capacity to 24 numbers at the minimum," the Chairman and Managing Director of HAL, CB Ananthakrishnan,

told ANI. The additional capacity, the CMD said, would help it deliver the end product to customers at least one year ahead of the original contractor delivery schedule.

The first version of the Tejas LCA aircraft was inducted into the IAF in 2016. Currently, two squadrons of IAF, 45 Squadron and 18 Squadron, are fully operational with LCA Tejas.

An order worth Rs 36,468 crore for 83 LCA Mk 1A aircraft has been placed with HAL and delivery is scheduled to begin by February 2024, a Ministry of Defence statement read. More than Rs 9,000 crore has been sanctioned for the development of LCA Mk 2, an updated version of LCA Tejas. **ANI**

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Mind this road: Skidding danger, take it slow

Poor state of road between Hoodi Railway Junction and Kodigehalli poses safety concern for commuters; stones used by BBMP to fill potholes are now scattered

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Commuters using the stretch from Hoodi Railway Junction to Kodigehalli complain of the pathetic state of the roads. After repeated pushes for repairs, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) filled the potholes with crushed stones a few months ago, leading to the skidding of vehicles.

Roughly two years ago, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) dug up the road for Cauvery Stage-V work but never restored it. Residents have been struggling with the poor condition of the roads for nearly a year. Both BBMP and BWSSB have turned a deaf ear to the residents' plight. After multiple complaints two months ago, BBMP filled the potholes with crushed stones, and now it has turned into a safety risk for commuters.

"Two years ago, the road was completely asphalted, and we did not have any issues. But then BWSSB took up some work and dug it up. For nearly a year, the road was left unrestored. After many complaints from

Two years ago, the road was completely asphalted, and we did not have any issues. But then BWSSB took up some work and dug it up. For nearly a year, the road was left unrestored —Dinesh



Residents say that during rain, the situation on the roads becomes even worse. Stones are all scattered, and two-wheelers riders keep skidding

residents, BBMP filled the potholes with crushed stones. Now the stones are all scattered, and two-wheelers keep skidding on the stretch. At least every week, we are seeing 2-3 accidents," said Dinesh, a resident.

Furthermore, residents say that during rain, the situation on the roads becomes even worse. School-going children have to walk 500 metre away from their homes as school buses halt away from the place.

Meanwhile, BBMP said that the work will resume on Monday. "We filled the potholes with crushed stones during the rains. We will now restore the stretch with wet mix starting Monday," said a BBMP engineer in the area.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Sidewalk issue
Vasanth Nagar



Footpath slabs are missing opposite Prestige Abshot Apartments, posing a significant safety risk. Several incidents have been reported, particularly involving senior citizens falling at night.

Electrical hazard
Nandini Layout



BESCOM's roadside high-voltage kiosks with dangerously open doors can be found behind Reliance Fresh in Nandini Layout.

Dedicated pick-up/drop points at malls

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

front of their establishments, and they can take the initiative to undertake infrastructure projects."

An official further explained: "Malls should establish pick-up and drop-off points at a distance of 80 m, with no provision for picking up or dropping off commuters near the mall entrance. They should also provide a separate parking facility for those arriving in their own vehicles, along with additional personnel to control traffic during weekends and holidays."

Reacting to the BBMP's proposal, college student Ananya Kashyap said: "Many citizens take cabs or autos to get to malls. As these cabs are booked well in advance, the vehicles will be parked on the roads, waiting, causing congestion. Even those



Officials say that malls should establish pick-up points at 80 m

who want to drop people off on the road in personal vehicles create jams. Even if there is a three-lane road in front of a mall, it automatically gets reduced as the remaining portion is either taken up by waiting vehicles or pedestrians. Naturally, other vehicles using the road have to travel in

the remaining lanes, creating congestion. I am happy that BBMP has finally addressed the issue, but I still wonder why the civic agency was inactive on this matter for so long, as traffic congestion is already witnessed in major parts of the city where malls have emerged."

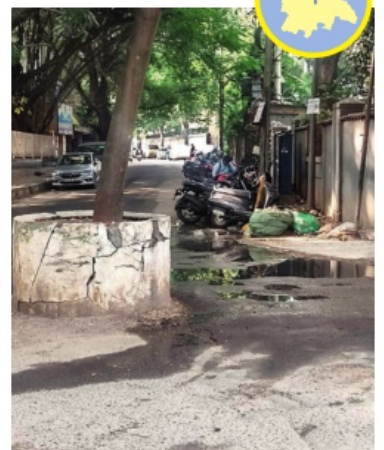
Sumanth Kumar, a regular mall-goer added: "There are many areas in the city that had no traffic congestion before malls were established in their neighbourhood. However, when a mall opens, there is a sudden traffic jam, affecting not only those using the main thoroughfare but also residents living nearby. The narrow roads around malls are filled with parked vehicles, creating another significant problem. As malls construct such extensive facilities, they should also build an underpass or a flyover so that the main thoroughfare

remains unaffected, providing an alternative facility for people entering and exiting malls."

Meanwhile, BBMP is calling tenders to hire consultants to suggest where grade separators need to be constructed on high-density corridors.

Commissioner Giri Nath explained: "To reduce traffic congestion, we need to develop plans, and a tender has been issued. Eight people have qualified for the expression of interest. Only one has qualified in the technical tender, so we plan to issue another tender to attract more participants. According to the tender, the qualifying company must conduct a survey, study the action plan provided by DULT, and suggest whether we should implement tunnels, underpasses, flyovers, or other infrastructure projects."

Pothole danger
Ashok Nagar



Rest House Road, near Rest House Park, has potholes, and sewage is flowing onto it. Authorities concerned should do something about it.

Bengaluru's suburban train saga

A safety-first journey on new suburban trains

City's suburban trains all set to transform and revolutionise railway travel



First pillar of the second corridor's elevated section was recently concretised, measuring 5.51 m in height with four 23 m piles. It boasts a design load-bearing capacity of 1,600 metric tonnes

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Although suburban trains are still a distant prospect in terms of operations, the good news is that these trains will have modern facilities such as Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) and other amenities.

An official explained, "We have given a lot of importance to the safety aspect. Communications-Based Train Control (CBTC) is an advanced communication system utilising radio communication to transmit precise and timely information for controlling trains effectively."

According to reports by the Indian Railways, the trains on the Indian Railways primarily operate under the Absolute Block System or Automatic Block System, employing fixed-length blocks. These systems maintain unused space between two trains moving in the same direction. In some countries, advanced communication-based systems are adopted to maximise track capacity.

"CBTC, a contemporary radio communication-based signalling system, is one such example. It facilitates high-resolution and real-time control information, enhancing line capacity by safely reducing the distance (headway) between trains on the same track and minimising the need for trackside equipment. CBTC is currently being implemented on

guidelines, said a railway official.

For emergency communication, each car will feature four Passenger Emergency Alarm (PEA) buttons, enabling passengers to communicate with the train

operator or the operation control centre in case of emergencies. The trains will have enhanced grab poles. Grab poles with hand grips will be considerably increased to provide balance for standing

passengers. The trains will have luggage storage where there will be provision for smaller backpacks (laptop bags, etc.) in the luggage cage provided on the sides over the seats. To facilitate mobile charging, each car will be equipped with laptop and mobile charging sockets for passengers' ease and access to electronic devices. In case of emergencies, detrainment doors will be available on the end cars to facilitate the evacuation of passengers, sources said.

An official said that while Bengaluru is set to introduce suburban trains for efficient travel, only 4 per cent of the work is completed.

SAD DEMISE

20.05.1954

27.11.2023

SRI. R. AMBIKAPATHY

VICE PRESIDENT,

Karnataka State Contractors Association

PRESIDENT,

BBMP Contractors Association

Passed away peacefully on 27.11.2023

Last rituals on 28.11.2023 at 01.00PM

@ #3/8, 2nd Cross, Ganesha Block, Sulthanpalya,
RT Nagar, Bangalore- 32

*Human greatness does not lie in wealth or power,
but in character and goodness.*

Your love & goodness continue to light our way.

Deeply Mourned by:

Family & Friends

Critical moment: This lake needs immediate attention

Citizens complain BBMP lake department neglecting pollution in Basavanapura Lake; activists point out issues such as fish kill in water body due to sewage inflow

I Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Basavanapura Lake in KR Puram constituency continues to be in the lime-light for the wrong reasons. The water body is known for stray cattle, damaged saplings, unauthorised entry points, and apathetic home guards. It was also known for substandard bund work and negligent officials who failed to preserve water in the lake.

Bangalore Mirror published a story on June 26: Saplings at Basavanapura Lake battle with cattle, narrating how saplings nurtured by residents have become fodder for cattle.

Now, lake activists are complaining about the killing of fish due to pollution in the lake. They said the authorities have failed to take measures to prevent the flow of sewage into the lake.

"The lake was rejuvenated a few years ago by spending more than Rs 5 crore. Despite spending a lot of money, the lake is being neglected by the authorities concerned. What is the use of spending such a huge amount if water is polluted at regular intervals?" asked a resident of Basavanapura.

Balaji Raghotham, a lake activist, said that he has been demanding the BBMP Lake Department engineers take measures to stop sewage flowing into the lake. "I am shocked to come across dead fish in the lake. The authorities concerned have been assuring us to divert sewage, but it continues to flow into the lake. I have already complained to the BBMP Lakes Department Executive Engineer to look into the matter," he said.



Residents, activists spotted dead fish floating on surface of water in Basavanapura Lake

“The lake was rejuvenated a few years ago by spending more than Rs 5 crore

—a resident of Basavanapura

into the lake, and the authorities concerned, including the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and the BBMP Lakes Department, have failed to preserve Basavanapura Lake. "The water in

the lake was in good condition until a few days ago. The water is now polluted. Fish killings are happening," said the resident.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Lakes) said that some dead fish were found in the water body. "No sewage water entered the lake through the storm water drain. We have already constructed a sewage diversion channel around the lake. I have taken measures to inspect the sewage diversion channel. I will take measures to prevent sewage flow into the lake," said the executive engineer.

Court allows deputy CM DKS to travel abroad

A Delhi court has allowed Karnataka deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, accused in a money laundering case, to travel abroad.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull allowed Congress member Shivakumar to travel to Dubai from November 29 to December 3 on an application moved by him.

The application claimed that he was invited by His Excellency Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, COP28 President-Designate, and Michael R Bloomberg, United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Ambition and Solution, to attend the upcoming COP28 Local Climate Action Summit in Dubai, which is an annual international climate summit convened by the United Nations.

"It is a settled principle of law that the right to travel abroad is part of personal liberty as per Article 21 of the Constitution of India. However, such a right is not unfettered, and

Special Judge Vikas Dhull allowed deputy CM DK Shivakumar to travel to Dubai from November 29 to December 3

reasonable restrictions can be imposed on it. One of the restrictions that can be imposed is to curb the said right during the course of the investigation or trial if it appears that the accused is likely to abscond and will not be available to face the trial," the judge said in an order passed on November 25.

Noting that the accused was an eight-time MLA from Karnataka, where he is currently serving as a deputy chief minister, the judge said that the possibility of him fleeing from India was quite remote.

"In the facts and circumstances, there is no impediment to allowing the application of the applicant. Hence, the application filed by Shivakumar seeking permission to travel abroad is allowed, and he is permitted to travel to Dubai with effect from November 29, 2023, until December 3, 2023," the judge said.

The judge, however, put several conditions on the accused, including that he furnishes an FDR of Rs 5 lakh in his name before the court prior to his travel and files his complete travel itinerary, along with a telephone or mobile number.

"The accused shall not try to contact any of the co-accused or influence any of the witnesses connected with the present case while travelling abroad," the judge said.

Shivakumar was granted bail on October 23, 2019 by the Delhi High Court, with the condition that he would not leave the country without the permission of the court.

The application claimed that the accused had, on several occasions, travelled abroad and returned to India and was not a flight risk.

It was further submitted in the plea that the investigation was complete and a prosecution complaint had already been filed before the court. **PTI**

Student's medical health aid fundraiser

This resident of Bellandur collects 250 donations of medical equipment

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a very kind initiative, 17-year-old Samaira Malik, a 12th-grade student and Bellandur resident, has spearheaded a donation drive for medical equipment called 'Gear for Good'. Inspired by a personal tragedy during the second wave of covid-19, where her grandfather couldn't secure an oxygen concentrator, Samaira decided to ensure that others wouldn't face a similar plight.



Samaira Malik spearheaded a donation drive called Gear for Good

Since the inception of Gear for Good a few months ago, Samaira has successfully collected 250 donations of crucial medical equipment. The initiative kicked off in Koramangala, where Samaira compiled a list of items needed,

shared it with the community, and arranged drop-off points for donations. The response was overwhelming, with 110 donors contributing various items, including hospital beds, oxygen concentrators, spectacle frames,

crepe bandages, wheelchairs, and crutches.

Partnering with a local hospital, Samaira established a collection point at their Sahaaya Centre. Those in temporary need of the donated items were charged a nominal amount, refundable upon return, while those requiring permanent use were allowed to keep the equipment at no cost.

Expressing her motivation, Samaira said, "After losing my grandfather due to the unavailability of an oxygen concentrator, I knew I had to make a change. Gear for Good aims to ensure that people in need can access essential medical equipment without hurdles."

Samaira's proactive approach extended to creating a dedicated website, gearforgood.in, facilitating communication with donors, and listing associated hospitals.

Fertility fears surge in female smokers

Health professionals note a surge in fertility challenges, pregnancy risks, and reproductive disorders among young women who smoke, emphasising the need for education and support

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Health professionals have observed a notable rise in reproductive health issues among young women who smoke. This trend is evident among both teenagers and young professional women aged between 20-40 years. Smoking is linked to various potential reproductive health issues in women, prompting concerns raised by gynaecologists.

In one of the case studies presented at a private hospital, a 30-year-old woman sought help due to the inability to conceive after a year of trying. Despite both her and her partner being in good health, a detailed history revealed no contributory factors, except for both of them smoking ten cigarettes per day. Their examinations and relevant tests were within normal limits. Both were counselled about the detrimental



Gynaecologists raise concerns over the link between smoking and various reproductive health issues in women

effects of smoking on fertility and were advised to quit smoking for a chance at spontaneous conception. After some challenging months of trying, they successfully gave up smoking. Six months later, the woman became pregnant and subsequently delivered a healthy baby.

Dr Prathima Reddy, Director and lead consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at SPARSH Hospital, revealed that she has observed a range of potential reproductive health dis-

orders among young smokers aged between 20-40 years. These issues include menstrual irregularities, fertility challenges, an increased risk of miscarriage, high-risk pregnancy and complications, and a potential risk of cervical cancer.

"Young women who smoke may unknowingly expose themselves to these risks, jeopardising their reproductive health and the health of potential future generations. We have noticed a significant uptick in

reproductive health issues among young women who smoke, and it is crucial that we take proactive steps to address this trend. Approximately more than 10 per cent of women presenting with various reproductive disorders are constant smokers. Many women adopt smoking and alcohol consumption as 'stress busters.' Smoking among young women not only threatens their health but also poses specific and alarming risks to their overall well-being," said Dr Prathima.

Dr Smrithi D Nayak, Consultant - obstetrics & gynaecology, Aster RV Hospital, stated that smoking can have detrimental effects on fertility for both men and women. "There can be ovulation issues, where smoking can disrupt the regularity of menstrual cycles and may lead to irregular ovulation. Reduced egg quality, as smoking has been linked to a decrease in the quality of eggs, which can affect the chances of successful fertilisation," said Dr Smrithi.

The experts also revealed that smoking during pregnancy causes premature birth, low birth weight, certain birth defects, and ectopic pregnancy in which the fertilised egg implants somewhere in the abdomen other than the womb. It also causes complications with the placenta like placenta previa and placental abruption, which are conditions that endanger the life and health of both mother and child. Women who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy should not smoke. It's important to encourage women to quit smoking before or early in

“In recent years, there has been a notable increase of one or two cases reported per day”

—Dr Madhushree Vijayakumar,
Gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospital

pregnancy, when the most health benefits can be achieved, but cessation in all stages, even in late pregnancy, benefits maternal and foetal health.

Dr Madhushree Vijayakumar, Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Motherhood Hospital, said, "In recent years, there has been a notable increase of one or two cases reported per day, highlighting a heightened emphasis on women's reproductive health, particularly associated with smoking. More women are now revealing their experiences, highlighting the importance of addressing this issue. As it leads to many potential consequences, it underscores the importance of raising awareness about the risks and promoting smoking cessation. Encouraging women to quit smoking can have positive effects on their reproductive health and overall well-being."

Dr Prathima further added, "It is crucial that we prioritise education, intervention, and support to mitigate these risks. We need to empower young women with knowledge about the potential risks they face and encourage them to make healthier lifestyle choices."

BM Trippin' Tales

Winter trekking restrictions: HP imposes ban above 3,000 metres

As winter approaches, numerous Bengaluru residents embark on journeys to northern India for invigorating winter treks. For those considering a winter trek amid the snow-covered peaks of Himachal Pradesh, there's important news to note. Several district administrations in Himachal Pradesh have implemented a ban on treks in areas exceeding 3,000 meters above sea level for the upcoming winter season.

According to a report from Times of India, trekking above an altitude of 3,000 meters has been prohibited in the Kangra and Kinnaur districts of Himachal Pradesh until further notice, citing the approaching winter season. The district administrations have issued these directives, stating that prior permission would be necessary for treks below 3,000 meters in



the Kangra district, encompassing popular treks like Triund, Kareri Lake, and Himani Chamnuda.

"The permission for these three treks will not be granted if there is a weather alert or warning from the meteorological department. Action will be taken under sections of the IPC and the National Disaster Management Act against those found violating the orders," stated an official.

The administration has also prohibited all paragliding activities near the Dhauladhar mountains in the district. In a separate order, Kinnaur has also banned all trekking activities above 3,000 meters in the district. Kullu, Kangra, and Kinnaur districts are the primary hotspots for trekking in Himachal Pradesh. The administrations enforce this ban in winter as trekking becomes risky due to changing weather conditions, and several trekkers have gone missing in recent years in these three dis-

tricts. Last year, on January 24, two teenagers died after getting stuck in heavy snowfall while trekking in the Dhauladhar mountains in Kangra district.

Ashutosh, another trekker from Shimla, also went missing last year on November 19 after an avalanche on the Friendship peak in Kullu. Three trekkers were climbing the peak when the avalanche hit them. Ashutosh's body has still not been found.

Meanwhile, Dr Suman, the president of the Parvati Valley Adventure Tour Operators' Association, Kullu, said on Wednesday that police and forest check posts should be set up on trekking routes. "Such check posts would ensure that only those who have taken prior permission from the administration can go on a trek. This way, the local administration would also have prior information on who is trekking or has returned. This would definitely help in the timely rescue of stranded trekkers," said Dr Suman.

The Mandi administration issued orders banning trekking to the Shikari Devi temple. In a statement, the administration said all trekking to the temple would remain banned until further notice. "Trekking up to the temple is risky in winters as the mountain top receives 8 to 10 feet of snow," said the statement. —BMB

CRIME FILES

Child-lifting gang busted

Police busted a child-lifting gang and took four people into custody, three of them were women, in RR Nagar, on Monday. A 20-day-old baby boy has been freed from the gang by the police. The names of the detained individuals are Murugeswari, Hemalatha, Sharanya, and Kannan Ramaswamy.

The culprits had arrived to sell the infant close to the Raja Rajeshwari temple in a red car. But when they were selling the infant, the City Central Crime Branch police apprehended them in the act after receiving a tip.

The police have taken the accused into custody and are questioning them to find out more details. **BMB**

Sticker on number plate: Rider held

A case has been registered by the Baiyappanahalli police after tracking down a rider who was driving around with a sticker on the registration plate of the two-wheeler to avoid fines for violating traffic rules.

The accused is an employee of a private company and bought a two-wheeler three months ago. The city traffic police have installed AI CCTV cameras at important junctions in order to penalise motorists violating traffic rules. The accused used to stick stickers on the registration plate of his two-wheeler to escape from the fines. Recently, a person clicked a photo of the accused's defective registration plate near a bus stand and uploaded it on the official app of the city's traffic police, "public eye".

Later he was taken into custody and handed over to Baiyappanahalli police station. **BMB**

Doc, technician arrested for 900 illegal abortions

A doctor and lab technicians have been taken into custody on charges of allegedly carrying out about 900 unlawful abortions over a three-year period at a hospital in Mysuru, charging about Rs 30,000 for each treatment. They were both captured last week.

The accused are Dr Chandan Ballal and lab technician Nisar. According to police testimonies, the hospital's manager, Meena, and receptionist, Rizma Khan, were both placed under arrest earlier this month.

Another two accused, Shivalinge Gowda and Nayan Kumar were taken into custody in Mandya last month, when the police discovered a sex-determination and female foeticide operation. While escorting a pregnant woman for an abortion, the pair was captured. When questioned, they revealed that a Mandya jagery unit also served as an unlicensed ultrasound imaging facility. Authorities then confiscated the equipment because it did not have proper papers or a legitimate authorisation.

According to a preliminary investigation, the accused physician and his collaborators charged approximately Rs 30,000 for each of the approximately 900 illegal abortions they performed at the Mysuru Hospital during the previous three years.

The investigation is still ongoing in an effort to capture additional suspects. **BMB**

Fake air ticket to bid farewell

A woman was taken into custody after a FIR was filed against her for entering Bengaluru International Airport with a fake flight ticket in order to bid farewell to a friend. The woman's identity has been confirmed as Harpit Kaur Saini, according to police. Using a fake airline ticket, the accused and her friend Ayush Sharma entered the airport.

After saying goodbye to her companion, she went to the Pre-Embarkation Security Check (PESC). She came back later and said her laptop was missing. When the security guards became concerned, they looked up her flight ticket.

After realising the ticket was a fake, they reported it to the Bengaluru International Airport Police station. In this regard, the police have filed a formal complaint and are presently looking into the matter.

According to preliminary findings, the accused woman was told by security staff that she had to cancel her flight ticket or face expulsion. She then proceeded to the private aircraft company kiosk, where the authenticity of the ticket was verified. **BMB**

Climate Action Cell for B'luru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The BCAP, prepared by BBMP and the Government of Karnataka in collaboration with C40 Cities and WRI India, has been prepared in consultations with various stakeholder groups including different government departments, practitioners, civil society members and community-based organisations.

Under the plan, BBMP will soon have a Climate Action Cell that will facilitate an efficient implementation of BCAP. Dedicated staff and resources will be allocated for this and the cell will work with all other stakeholder agencies. A campaign, #BlueGreenUru, will also be launched soon to help every citizen and stakeholder to participate, contribute and collaborate in conserving, restoring and integrating the city's natural infrastructure to enhance resilience against climate change.

The BCAP marks the preparation of the city's first-ever GHG inventory – analysing all the major sectors/sources that emit GHGs into the atmosphere. This inventory will allow Bengaluru to build evidence-based mitigation strategies and policies, and to measure progress on the actions taken.

The pathways scenario, under the BCAP, establishes an evidence base on which Bengaluru can set its GHG mitigation targets. A Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CCRAVA) was done to understand the city's major climate risks, and hence, the key areas of focus under adaptation and capability to absorb shocks from climate hazards. The actions are aligned to seven major sectors – energy and buildings, transportation, solid waste management, water, wastewater and stormwater, air quality, urban planning, greening and biodiversity, and disaster and management.

Bengaluru, as part of the C40 network of nearly 100 world-leading cities, is working to deliver urgent action needed to confront the climate crisis, and BCAP is a step towards solving the crisis.

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I, VANEETA SANTOSH CHORADIA W/o. Santosh Kumar Choradia, residing at No. 52, Veer Bhikshu, Mission Cross Road, P. Kalinga Rao Road, Double Road Circle, Bengaluru-560027, have changed my name to VANEETA CHORARIA, vide affidavit dated 21.11.2023, sworn before notary P.K Nalinakshi, Bangalore.

I Needhiben Anilkumar Pujara W/O, Milankumar Jayantilal Tanna R/o:D-014, Brigade Woods, Behind G R Tech Park, Pattandur Agrahara, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560066 have changed my name to Nidhiben Anilkumar Pujara for all future purposes

I HASEENA MAQBOOL W/o MAQBOOL AHMED KHAN Ahmed R/o Doddegowdana Koppalu Kalkuni Mandya DISTRICT 571424 have changed my name to ASHINA KHANAM for all purposes

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Have you ever encountered a subpar hotel breakfast while on holiday? You don't really like the food choices on offer, but since you already paid for the meal as part of your booking, you force yourself to eat something anyway rather than go down the road to a cafe.

Economists and social scientists argue that such behaviour can happen due to the "sunk cost fallacy" – an inability to ignore costs that have already been spent and can't be recovered.

In the hotel breakfast example, the sunk cost is the price you paid for the hotel package: at the time of deciding where to eat breakfast, such costs are unrecoverable and should therefore be ignored.

Similar examples range from justifying finishing a banal, half-read book (or half-watched TV series) based on prior time already "invested" in the activity, to being less likely to quit exclusive groups such as sororities and sporting clubs the more effort it took to complete the initiation ritual.

While these behaviours are not rational, they're all too common, so it helps to be aware of this tendency. In some circumstances, you might even use it for your benefit.

Sunk costs can affect high-stakes decisions

While the examples above may seem relatively trivial, they show how common the sunk cost fallacy is. And it can affect decisions with much higher stakes in our lives.

Imagine that Bob previously bought a house for USD 1 million. Subsequently, there's a

THAT SINKING FEELING

What is the 'sunk cost fallacy'? Is it ever a good thing?

nationwide housing market crash. All houses are now cheaper by 20 per cent and Bob can only sell his house for USD 800,000.

Bob's been thinking of upgrading to a bigger house (and they are now cheaper!), but will need to sell his existing house to have funds for a downpayment.

However, he refuses to upgrade because he perceives a loss of USD 200,000 relative to the original price he paid of USD 1 million.

Bob is committing the sunk cost fallacy by letting the original price influence his decision making – only the house's current and projected price should matter.

Bob might be acting irrationally, but he's only human. Part of the reason we may find it difficult to ignore such losses is because losses are psychologically more salient relative to gains – this is known as loss aversion.

While most of the evidence for the sunk cost fallacy comes from individual decisions, it may also influence the decisions of groups.

In fact, it is sometimes referred to as the Concord fallacy, because the French and British governments continued funding the doomed supersonic airliner long after it was likely it would not be commercially viable.

Another example is drawn-out armed conflict that involves a large loss of lives for the losing side. Some may think it impossible to capitulate because the casualties will have "died in vain".

Knowing about sunk costs can help you

If you find yourself justifying behaviour due to costs you've paid in the past rather than circumstances of the present, or predictions of the future, it's worth checking yourself.

Identifying sunk costs allows you to cut your losses early and move on, rather than perpetuating larger losses. This is apparent in the housing example: the larger the crash, the cheaper the bigger house; and yet the

larger the crash, the greater the perceived loss from selling the existing house. Hence, the greater the loss in opportunity inflicted by the sunk cost fallacy.

If you find it difficult to overcome the sunk cost fallacy, it may help to delegate such decisions to others. This may include the decision of whether to go to a buffet or subscribe to Netflix, with the latter potentially being a double whammy: one may feel compelled to binge-watch due to the flat fee structure and, as mentioned earlier, to finish mediocre series once halfway through.

Use sunk costs to your advantage

A second, less obvious benefit is actively using the fallacy to your advantage. For example, many gym memberships require upfront payments regardless of how much you use the facilities.

If you find it hard to ignore sunk costs, choosing gym memberships that have large upfront fees and minimal pay-per-usage fees may be a way to commit yourself to a regular gym habit.

This can also apply to other activities that involve short-term pain for long-term gain – for example, paying for an online course will make you more likely to stick with it than if you found a free course.

But be warned, this doesn't work for everything: it seems that spending wildly on a wedding ceremony or engagement ring doesn't have a "sunk cost" effect – it fails to increase the likelihood of staying married.

(By Aaron Nicholas, Deakin University, *The Conversation*)



All you need to know about...

Persistent itching

Microbe is culprit

Scientists have for the first time identified a common skin bacterium -- *Staphylococcus aureus* -- that activates nerve cells in the skin, making people with skin conditions like eczema and atopic dermatitis itch and scratch themselves persistently.

Flourishing condition

In such conditions, the equilibrium of microorganisms that keep our skin healthy is often thrown off balance, allowing *S. aureus* to flourish, said the researchers from Harvard Medical School

What causes the itch

Up until now, the itch that occurs with eczema and atopic dermatitis was believed to arise from the accompanying inflammation of the skin. But the new findings, based on research in mice and in human cells and published in the journal *Cell*, showed that *S. aureus* single-handedly causes itch by instigating a molecular chain reaction that culminates in the urge to scratch.

Novel mechanism

"We've identified an entirely novel mechanism behind itch -- the bacterium *Staph aureus*, which is found on almost every patient with the chronic condition atopic dermatitis. We show that itch can be caused by the microbe itself," said Isaac Chiu, Associate Professor of immunology in the Blavatnik Institute at HMS. In the study, mice exposed to *S. aureus* developed intensifying itch over several days, and the repeated scratching caused worsening skin damage that spread beyond the original site of exposure.

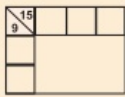
Treatment

Treating animals with an FDA-approved anti-clotting medicine successfully blocked the activation of the protein to interrupt this key step in the itch-scratch cycle. The treatment relieved symptoms and minimised skin damage.

— IANS

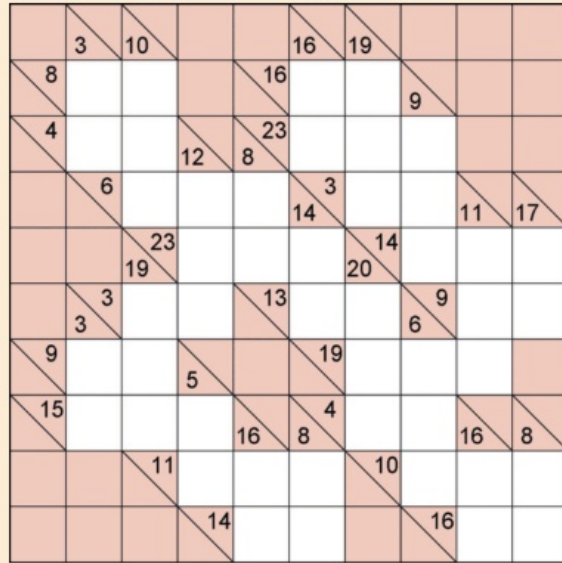
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

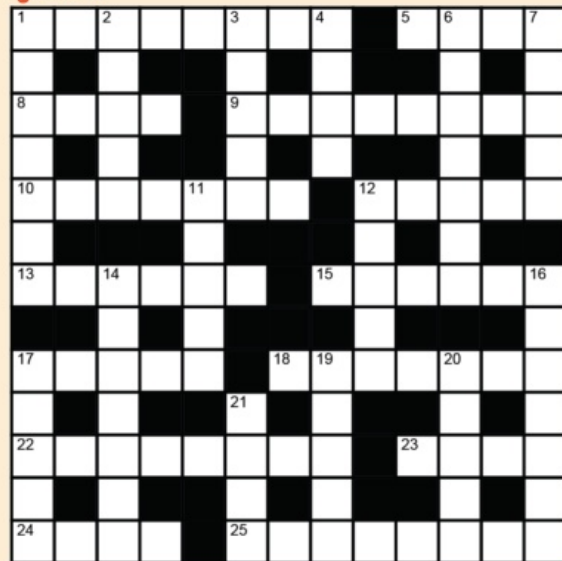


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Powered by a current (8)
- 5 Closed (4)
- 8 Berlin negative (4)
- 9 Shocked, injured or offended (8)
- 10 Is false to (7)
- 12 Private teacher (5)
- 13 A ___ B: A & B have the same value? (6)
- 15 Shri! night insect (6)
- 17 Washes or bathes (5)
- 18 Edible mollusk (7)
- 22 Divert or fluster (8)
- 23 Indian goddess (4)
- 24 To give out (4)
- 25 Improbable (8)

DOWN

- 1 Give a title to (7)
- 2 Court order (5)
- 3 Very spacious (5)
- 4 Football club Manchester ___ (4)
- 6 Early evening meal (4,3)
- 7 English royal house (5)
- 11 The book of maps (5)
- 12 Subarctic forest (5)
- 14 Bangalore cinema home to India's first 4k screen (7)
- 16 Facility (7)
- 17 Gate-keeper's cottage (5)
- 19 East Indian pepper plant (5)
- 20 Come ___; mature or grow up (2,3)
- 21 Hindu wind God (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS U
 QUEI IQD XOU XQUAYQE IQDY
 TDADYJ.



Linemaro

I love how spontaneous you are



Mindchow

If you are facing the right direction, all you have to do is keep on walking



Joke of the day

Doesn't expecting the unexpected make the unexpected become the expected?

Loop

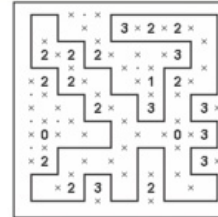
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

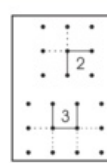
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

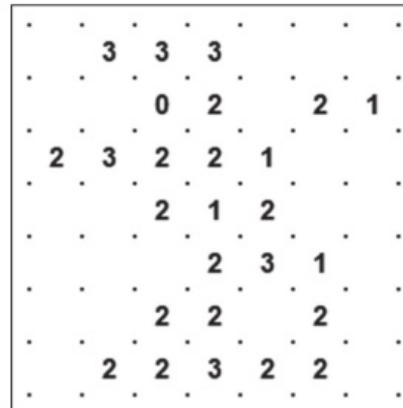
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



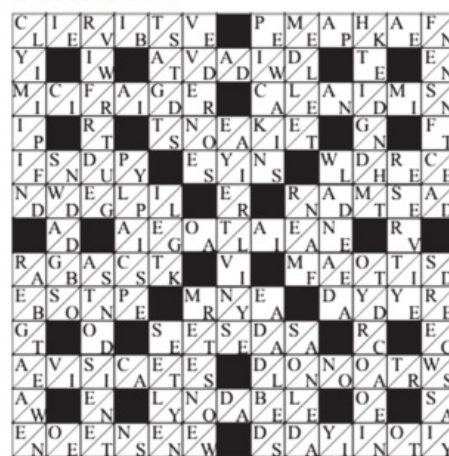
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



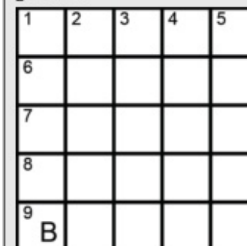
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

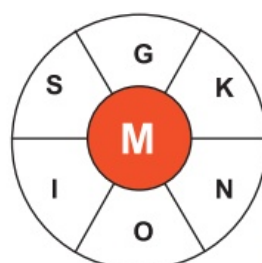
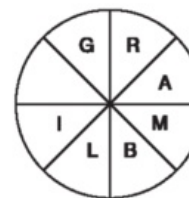
- 1 Strip; 6 R Hair;
- 7 Tiara; 8 In USA;
- 9 Lobos

DOWN

- 1 Brush; 2 No API;
- 3 All II; 4 At Rio;
- 5 Stars

Mensapuzzle

Find two eight-letter words reading clockwise in each circle. The words are antonyms. You have to find the starting point of each word, and provide the missing letter.



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

4 5 9 9 = 9

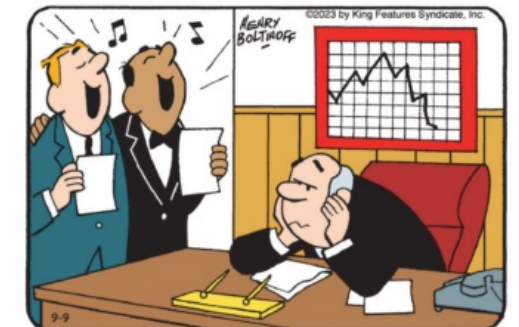
Medium

2 5 5 7 = 8

Hard

2 3 5 3 = 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bow tie is different. 2. Pen is moved. 3. Paper is missing. 4. Chair is not as wide. 5. Label is missing. 6. Chart is smaller.

Riddler

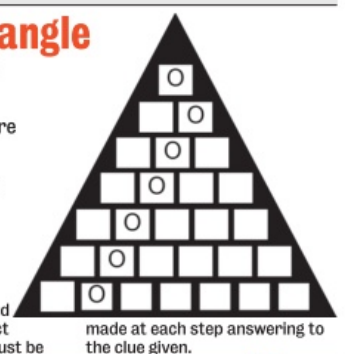
When you behead a word, you remove the first letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Numbered musical composition -> Fluid from an inflammation
2. Major or minor octave arrangement; manner -> Formal lyric poem
3. Property of sound based on frequency of vibration -> Rub; urge
4. Rapid alternation between notes a semitone apart -> Small stream

Alpha triangle

- 1 Atomic number 8
- 2 Care of, abbr.
- 3 Fabulous flier
- 4 Coconut husk fibre
- 5 Welsh dog breed
- 6 Hollowing out
- 7 Moving forwards and backwards

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



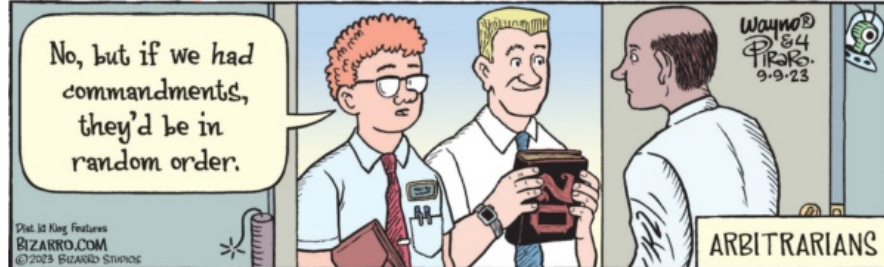
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



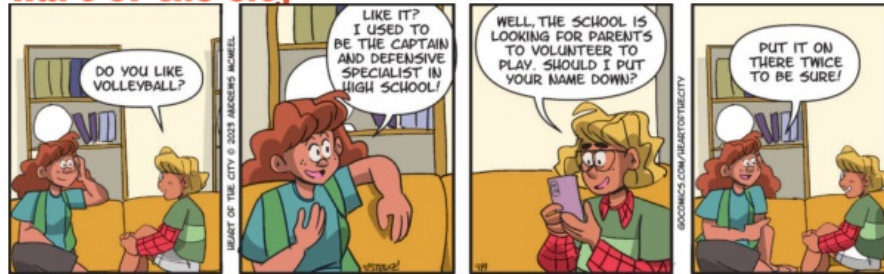
Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankschaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today you may feel dull. It is advised to keep your mind cool. It is the golden rule for you to think twice before any action. You may travel to recover your money; otherwise, you may lose it. You are also advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to go for in-depth study to get success.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may be impatient, which may reflect on your way of working. There may be some silly mistakes, which may stop you from completing your task. Investments in fixed assets are advised to postpone for some days. But with the help of the elder's blessings, you may overcome the messy situation. In the evening, you may be focused on your work.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money on buying worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics; otherwise, there might be a breakup.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative stuff that will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase your emotional relationship with them. Singles may find a soulmate. Lovebirds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today you are blessed by the moon; your destiny is likely to be with you. Today, you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay off in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go on short work-related trips. Some good news may come from your sibling. You may plan to renovate your house or office.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may meet some influential people who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital in your business, which may give you financial gains in the near future.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members cannot be cured. Money that was stuck may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in the business. People who are in a job may get some incentives that will improve their financial health. Job seekers may get a job with the help of any relative or friend's reference.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds are likely to get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work, and you may get rewards for your hard work. Your social respect may be increased now. Overworking your mind may make you tired, and due to your workload, you may not be able to reach some family events.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today is important for domestic life. You may be busy with kids. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' education. You may buy some creative stuff for your home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to use wisdom while buying any household stuff or jewellery.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, messy situations are now under control. You may feel peace in your mind. You may be able to make a proper balance between expenditures and earnings, which may increase savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today you may be satisfied with work. You may plan for a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious places to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.



KIDZONE



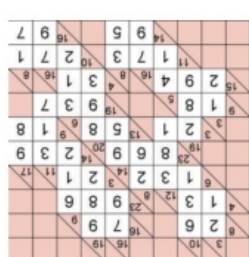
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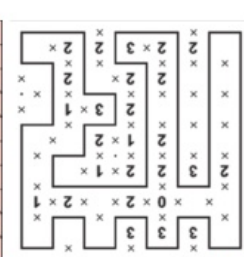
6 Tiara Gowda,
7 years,
Vidyashilp
Academy

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

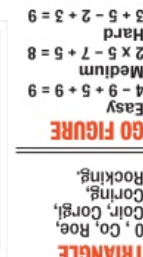
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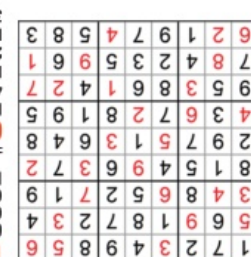
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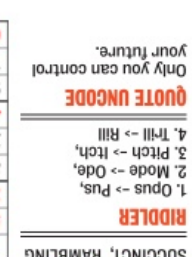
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M



Catherine's love for India— She has seen it multiple times, her son has watched it and his school friends too... Catherine Zeta-Jones says Shah Rukh Khan-starrer "Om Shanti Om" is one of her favourite films along with "The Lunch Box"



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Unique title



Sandalwood directors are taking to giving peculiar titles to their films to pick the curiosity of moviegoers. Mister Bakra, Half Boiled, Tsunami, Chamkaisi Chindi Udaisi, Dakota Express, Murane Class Manja B.Com Bhagya are cases in point.

Now director Bhanu Prakash has chosen Chatta (meaning bier in Kannada) as his film's title.

Bhanu Prakash, who has been working as a co-director for Kannada and Telugu movies, debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with this movie.

The title of the movie was launched at a function held in the city a few days ago. Lyricist Dr V Nagendra Prasad and director Joe Simon were the guests of honour.

"Chatta does not mean the wooden frame that we use to carry dead bodies to burial grounds. It is the last page of a book. I want to thank all those who came to bless me on this occasion. We are planning to make Chatta a pan-India movie," said Bhanu Prakash. Chatta is being bankrolled by Kumar M, Anaji Ramesh, D Obul Reddy under the KM Creations banner in association with K Rama Murthy, Vasudev, and Prakash Gowda.

Movie with message

Joining the list of Kannada movies that have been bankrolled through crowd funding, is Gaaligudda. It is about a small village on a hillock where light and fresh air is available aplenty.



Raghu Atharva, an engineer who worked as associate director for TV serials and a few Kannada movies, makes debut as a director with this film. "I quit my job due to my passion towards movies. This film revolves around a small village near a forest. The movie has a message, especially for youth who are preoccupied with their jobs and earnings and neglect their parents and hometowns," said Raghu Atharva.

The poster of the movie was released at a temple in the city recently. "The process of selecting actors is in progress. I am in talks with Naveen Shankar but a final decision is yet to be taken. I am looking for one more lead actor."

Rahul Subramaniam who scored music for Malayalam movies Home and Kathana is likely to make his debut as music director in Sandalwood through this movie. The movie's shoot is expected to be held in Kudremukh and Kalasa in Karnataka.

ALL THE BIG WINNERS

Alia, Karishma Tanna, and others who bagged awards

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta-directed "Scoop" won the best series award at the fourth edition of Filmfare OTT awards 2023 here.

The show's leading lady, Karishma Tanna shared the best female actor, critics, award in a series with Sonakshi Sinha ('Dahaad').

Filmmaker Vikramaditya Motwane was recognised as the best director for his period drama "Jubilee" and best director, critics, award went to Randeep Jha for "Kohrra". Actor Suvinder Vicky was awarded best actor for the Punjab-set drama while his col-



league Barun Sobti received best supporting actor award for the show. Rajshri Deshpande was named best female actor in a series for her role in "Trial By Fire".

Vijay Varma received the best actor honour for "Dahaad", while Tillotama Shome received the best supporting female actor award for "Delhi Crime" season two.

In the supporting actor category in the comedy series, Arunabh Kumar was adjudged the award for TVF "Pitchers" season two and Shernaz Patel for TVF "Tripling" season three in the supporting actor series, comedy. "Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai" received top honours, including best actor award to Manoj Bajapayee, best film web original award to the court-room drama and best director award to Apoorv Singh Karki.

Alia Bhatt received best actor award for web original film, "Darlings" and Shefali Shah, who played the role of her mother in the movie, was recognised as the best supporting actor. The best film (critics) award went to Konkana Sen Sharma for her segment in "Lust Stories 2" and Vasan Bala for his film "Monica O My Darling" where Rajkumar Rao was also recognised in the best actor category. Sharmila Tagore and Sanya Malhotra shared the best (critics) award for "Gulmohar" and "Kathal", respectively. —ETimes



'A film close to my heart'

Actor Allu Arjun felt nostalgic as his movie 'Arya 2' completed 14 years of its release.

To mark the 14th anniversary of the movie directed by Sukumar, the actor took to X to share pictures from the film's set.

Allu Arjun captioned the photographs, "14 Years of Arya2," with a meaningful message. A film that will always be incredibly special and near and dear to my heart #14YearsForArya2."

Notably, 'Arya 2' is a sequel to the 2004 film 'Arya' and features Allu Arjun, Kajal Aggarwal, and Navdeep in the lead roles.

The story revolves around Arya (played by Allu Arjun), a happy-go-lucky guy who befriends Ajay (played by Navdeep) in an orphanage. They share a close bond and con-



sider each other as soul-mates.

The plot takes a turn when they both meet Geetha (played by Kajal Aggarwal) during their college days. Arya falls in love

with Geetha, but she is initially attracted to Ajay. The film explores the themes of love, friendship, and the complexities of relationships.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Allu Arjun is all set to come up with 'Pushpa 2 - The Rule'. The film will hit theatres on August 15, 2024. The first movie in the franchise was 'Pushpa: The Rise', an action entertainer directed by Sukumar, which was released in theatres on December 17, 2021. The film, which stars Allu Arjun in the lead role, was widely praised. —ANI

Style shot

Ananya Panday nails her fashion game every time she steps out of

her house. Be it on a red carpet event or simply out on an evening stroll, the 'Dream Girl 2' actress makes sure she makes heads turn with every appearance.

Earlier on Monday, Ananya was snapped by the shutterbugs looking all simple and sweet. As Ananya posed for the lensmen at an event, where a paparazzo referred to her as 'Anna' to which Ananya reacted, "Now, who is this Anna?" The paparazzi also complimented the actress on her simple look.

Meanwhile, Ananya Pandey has embarked on a new chapter by getting her first home in Mumbai on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras.

For the unversed, Ananya's dream abode has been crafted to perfection by none other than the talented Gauri Khan.

Expressing her gratitude, Ananya took to her Instagram to share glimpses of the joyous moments spent with Gauri Khan.. —ETimes

